



NEWS RELEASE

Lt. Col. John Whitford, Director of Communications, Connecticut National Guard
OFFICE: 860.524.4857 CELL: 860.883.5336 FAX: 860.524.4902
EMAIL: JOHN.WHITFORD@US.ARMY.MIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORMAL WELCOME HOME CEREMONY FOR CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AVIATION UNIT

WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn. – Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, the Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard, announces a formal welcome home ceremony for more than 40 soldiers from Company G, 126th Aviation Regiment of Windsor Locks, who were mobilized and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The event will be held Saturday, January 20, 2007 at the Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF) in Windsor Locks at 1:00 p.m.

Company G, 126th Aviation Regiment was mobilized in June 2005, and left Connecticut for Ft. Dix, NJ, on June 17, 2005 immediately after the send-off ceremony. The unit arrived in Southwest Asia in September 2005, with the mission of providing Aviation Intermediate Maintenance (AVIM) support to United States military forces in Iraq. The unit arrived back in Connecticut on September 8, 2006.

“The outstanding performance of the Soldiers of Company G, 126th Aviation Regiment continued the tradition of excellence displayed by Connecticut National Guard units in support of the Global War on Terror and established very high standards for all units that follow them,” said Martin.

(MORE)

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While stationed in Iraq, Company G, 126th Aviation Regiment maintained three different airframes that provided mission ready aircraft that supported the historical Iraqi Referendum and Vote, Battlefield circulation, Air Assaults, direct aerial attack support, convoy security, aerial reconnaissance, MEDEVAC, Quick Reaction Force and Downed Aircraft Recovery Operations.

G Company, 126th Aviation completed more than 1,000 work orders with aviation shops in support of civilian and military agencies at two different bases in Iraq. The unit maintained a \$15 million inventory of aviation parts and supplies for the entire task force, provided unit level maintenance and crewmember support for an Alaskan Blackhawk unit that averaged more than 650 flight hours a month and intermediate level maintenance for the Apache, Kiowa and Blackhawk helicopters.

Company G, 126th Aviation Regiment was formed in 2002. Its mission is to provide Aviation Intermediate Maintenance (AVIM) and logistical support to a UH-60 Blackhawk Battalion.

Company G, 126th Aviation Regiment is commanded by Maj. Tim Seery of Wethersfield. The 126th Aviation is comprised of units from Puerto Rico, Maine and Connecticut.

This event is open to the media.

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